Deletion of Minerals from Scheduled List of Minerals

5231. SHRI SANAT MEHTA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has represented to delete Lime-Stone and Bauxite from the list of scheduled minerals shown in Schedule-I of MMRD Act, 1957;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposal which was received on 28.4.97 was discussed in the 1st meeting of the Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Mines) to review the Mining Rules and procedures held on 29th April, 1997. The terms of reference of the Committee inter-alia include review of the existing laws and procedures governing regulation and development of minerals and to recommend steps to make them compatible with the policy changes and to suggest steps to reduce delays in grant/ renewal of Prospecting Licence/Mining Lease. The Committee is also to consider and suggest further delegation of powers to the State Governments regarding grant/ renewal of prospecting Licence/Mining Leases and measures to be taken to prevent illegal mining.

Kho-Kho Team

5232. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 734 dated March 6, 1996 and state:

(a) whether Railways have since got affiliation with the Kho-Kho Federation of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Railways to get affiliation with the Kho-Kho Federation of India early;

(d) whether the Kho-Kho players already on the rolls of Railways have since been identified and process for recruitment of others has since been initiated;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Federation is being approached for grant of affiliation early.

(d) to (f) Further action would be processed only after the Kho-Kho Federation of India grants formal affiliation to the Railways.

Railway Projects

5233. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV:

SHRI N.J. RATHWA:

SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT:

SHRI PAWAN DIWAN:

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the railway projects implemented during the Eight Five Year Plan and proposed for implementation during the Ninth Five Year Plan, zone-wise and particularly in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon during above period and funds earmarked for current financial year, project-wise;

(c) the time by which the above projects are likely to be completed; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to complete the above projects within stipulated time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) The information is being collected from Zonal Railways and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Extension of Railway Link upto Ponnani

5234. SHRI G.M. BANATWALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the need to extend rail link upto Ponnani in District Malappuram in Kerala (Southern Railway); and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Facilities to Freedom Fighters

5235. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the freedom fighters are entitled to get telephone connections on out of turn basis and at the concessional rates as few as installation and calls are concerned; and